AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-119 (Cancelled)

120. (New) A method of increasing angiogenesis in a mammal by providing to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1) polypeptide or a nucleic acid molecule encoding said polypeptide, wherein said RTEF-1 polypeptide has angiogenic activity and at least 60% sequence identity to the sequence of human RTEF-1 (Accession Number AAC50763), mouse RTEF-1 (Accession Number Q62296), or chick RTEF-1 (Accession Number P48984).

121. (New) The method of claim 120, wherein said RTEF-1 polypeptide has at least 80% sequence identity to the sequence of human RTEF-1 (Accession Number AAC50763), mouse RTEF-1 (Accession Number Q62296), or chick RTEF-1 (Accession Number P48984).

122. (New) The method of claim 120, wherein said RTEF-1 polypeptide is provided to said mammal by administering to said mammal a cell, tissue, or organ that contains said polypeptide in a therapeutically effective amount.

123. (New) A method of decreasing angiogenesis in a mammal by administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a composition that reduces the expression or activity of Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1).

124. (New) The method of claim 123, wherein said composition is selected from a peptide, a polypeptide, a synthetic organic molecule, a naturally occurring organic molecule, a nucleic acid molecule, an antibody, or an antigen binding fragment.

125. (New) The method of claim 124, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is an antisense RNA molecule that is complementary to at least a portion of RTEF-1 sense nucleic acid sequence or is a double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) molecule that comprises a portion of RTEF-1 nucleic acid sequence and that is cleaved in a cell of said mammal to produce a short interfering RNA (siRNA) molecule, and wherein said nucleic acid molecule is sufficient to cause a decrease in RTEF-1 biological activity in said mammal.

126. (New) A method for identifying a candidate compound for increasing angiogenesis in a mammal, said method comprising:

(a) contacting a sample comprising Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1) gene with a candidate compound; and

(b) measuring RTEF-1 gene expression or activity, wherein a candidate compound that alters RTEF-1 gene expression or activity, relative to RTEF-1 expression or activity in a sample not contacted with said candidate compound, is a candidate compound that may be useful for modulating angiogenesis in a mammal.

127. (New) A method for identifying a candidate compound for decreasing angiogenesis in a mammal, said method comprising:

(a) contacting a sample comprising a Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1) gene with a candidate compound; and

(b) measuring said RTEF-1 gene expression or activity in said sample, wherein a candidate compound that alters said RTEF-1 gene expression or activity, relative to

RTEF-1 expression or activity in a sample not contacted with said candidate compound, is a candidate compound that is useful for modulating angiogenesis in a mammal.

128. (New) A method for identifying a candidate compound for increasing angiogenesis in a mammal, said method comprising:

(a) contacting Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1) polypeptide with a candidate compound; and

(b) determining whether said candidate compound alters the biological activity of said RTEF-1 polypeptide, wherein a candidate compound that increases the biological activity of said RTEF-1 polypeptide is a candidate compound that may be useful for increasing angiogenesis.

129. (New) A method for identifying a candidate compound for decreasing angiogenesis in a mammal, said method comprising:

(a) contacting Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1) polypeptide with a candidate compound; and

(b) determining whether said candidate compound alters the biological activity of said RTEF-1 polypeptide, wherein a candidate compound that decreases the biological activity of said RTEF-1 polypeptide is a candidate compound that may be useful for decreasing angiogenesis.

130. (New) A method for identifying a candidate compound for increasing angiogenesis in a mammal, said method comprising testing the angiogenic activity of said candidate compound, wherein a compound that increases angiogenesis by at least 10% relative to a control is identified as a compound which may be useful for increasing angiogenesis.

131. (New) A method for identifying a candidate compound for decreasing angiogenesis in a mammal, said method comprising testing the angiogenic activity of said candidate compound, wherein a compound that decreases angiogenesis by at least 10% relative to a control is identified as a compound which may be useful for decreasing angiogenesis.

132. (New) A method of treating, preventing, or reducing hypoxia in a mammal at risk for or experiencing hypoxia comprising providing to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1) polypeptide or a nucleic acid encoding said polypeptide, wherein said RTEF-1 polypeptide has angiogenic activity and at least 80% sequence identity to the sequence of human RTEF-1 (Accession Number AAC50763), mouse RTEF-1 (Accession Number Q62296), or chick RTEF-1 (Accession Number P48984), and wherein said RTEF-1 polypeptide has angiogenic activity.

133. (New) The method of claim 132, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is an expression vector selected from the group consisting of a plasmid or a viral vector.

134. (New) The method of claim 133, wherein said viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus, retrovirus, adeno-associated virus vector, herpes simplex virus, SV40 vector, polyoma virus vector, papilloma virus vector, picarnovirus vector, and vaccinia virus vector.

135. (New) A kit comprising:

(a) a vector encoding a Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1) polypeptide in an amount sufficient to treat or reduce hypoxia, a composition comprising a Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1) polypeptide in an amount

sufficient to treat or reduce hypoxia, or a composition that reduces the levels or activity of Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1) in an amount sufficient to decrease angiogenesis; and

(b) instructions for delivery of said vector to a mammal or a tissue of said mammal for treating or reducing hypoxia, instructions for delivery of said composition to a mammal or a tissue of said mammal for treating or reducing hypoxia, or instructions for delivery of said composition to a mammal or a tissue of said mammal for decreasing angiogenesis, respectively.

136. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound that reduces the levels or activity of Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1) and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

137. (New) The composition of claim 136, wherein said compound is selected from a peptide, a polypeptide, a synthetic organic molecule, a naturally occurring organic molecule, a nucleic acid molecule, an antibody, and an antigen binding fragment.

138. (New) The composition of claim 137, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is a double stranded RNA (dsRNA) molecule or an antisense single stranded RNA (ssRNA) molecule.